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Effective road safety measures in Greece

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Abstract

The paper presents road safety actions and measures proposed in the framework of the development of the Greek Strategic Road Safety Plan for the period 2021-2030. Five road safety pillars that concern all road crash factors are outlined. For each pillar, actions and particular measures are defined, adapted to the Greek reality and based on the principles of Vision Zero and the Safe System Approach. In total, 44 actions and 200 road safety measures are foreseen and implementation priorities are defined. Next, the framework for monitoring the implementation of actions is presented, taking into account the elements of the Safe System Approach. The use of a set of key performance indicators for road safety is proposed and the methodological framework for the collection of the necessary data and the calculation of road safety performance indicators is provided.

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Peer-review under responsibility of the scientific committee of the Transport Research Arena (TRA) Conference *Keywords:* policy; strategic plan; road safety programmes; implementation; monitoring

1. Introduction

Despite the significant progress achieved in road safety performance over the last decade, Greece, with 579 deaths in 2020, still lags far behind the European Union average. It is well behind the 14 oldest Member States, but also behind several newer Members and less developed countries. In order to effectively address the major social and national issue of road crashes, a new Strategic Plan for the improvement of road safety in Greece for the period 2021-

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2030 was recently developed. The new National Road Safety Strategic Plan was based on international road safety developments, on the detailed analysis of the Greek conditions as well as on a systematic and broad public consultation. Furthermore, it is harmonized with the European Strategy that aims to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries in road crashes by 50% by 2030, based on the year 2020, as well as with the general scientific, technological and social context as expressed by international road safety policies and strategies.

For the success of a Strategic Plan and the achievement of the objectives set in it, it becomes necessary to implement a road safety system, in which the responsibilities and the role of each implementing body are precisely defined and coordination, monitoring and evaluation of actions are effectively regulated. Among the main responsibilities of the road safety stakeholders that should be taken into account in the design of the Strategic Plan are:

- securing and allocating the necessary resources for the implementation of Road Safety Programs and actions,
- the coordination and control of all the implementers of the programs and actions,
- the coordination of communication and joint actions of the competent bodies,
- the creation of a system for monitoring and evaluating the results of programs and actions.

The National Road Safety Strategic Plan should lead to the definition, implementation and monitoring of the necessary actions to drastically reduce the number of road crashes and the number of dead and injured in them. Thus, one of the main components of the Plan was the identification of actions and measures to be undertaken at national level, by all competent bodies. This paper aims to present the procedure followed for the selection, prioritization, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of road safety measures in Greece in the framework of the Greek Road Safety Strategic Plan.

2. A road safety system for effective road safety measures

For the success of a Strategic Plan and the achievement of the objectives set in it, it is necessary to implement a road safety system in which the responsibilities and role of each implementing authority are defined, coordination, monitoring and evaluation of implemented measures are effectively regulated and road safety policy objectives and results are communicated to stakeholders and citizens.

The Road Safety Strategic Plan 2021-2030 is based on the following five pillars that address all road crash factors, as outlined in the United Nations Action Plan for the Decade 2021-2030:

- Road Safety Management
- · Road User Behavior
- Road Infrastructure and Traffic
- Vehicle
- Post-Crash Treatment

For each of these pillars, actions and measures to be implemented by the competent authorities are specified following the principles of vision zero and the safe system approach. These actions and measures are based on international experience and are adapted to the Greek reality, with emphasis on the conclusions from the evaluation of previous Greek Strategic Road Safety Plans (effectiveness of measures, capabilities of implementing bodies, etc.). Emphasis was also given to the pillars and actions of the European Union Strategic Plan 2021-2030, in order to achieve the best possible harmonization.

An important contribution to the definition of the proposed actions and measures was achieved through an extensive, open consultation with public and non-public bodies. Through a dedicated interactive website any citizen or public body (public authority, private organizations and businesses, professionals, scientists, associations, NGOs) had the opportunity to be informed and submit comments and suggestions on actions to improve road safety in Greece.

All actions and measures will be implemented at national and regional or local level. Where required, the cooperation of multiple authorities is envisaged for their implementation (e.g. Ministries, General Secretariats of Ministries, Regional authorities, Municipalities).

All proposed actions must be governed by the principle of shared responsibility as it is a key parameter of the holistic approach to the development of a secure system that is the ultimate goal of the Strategic Plan. The principle of shared responsibility includes both ensuring the accountability of the State bodies for the effective execution of the task assigned to them as well as encouraging the adoption of safe road behavior by the citizens.

3. Selected road safety measures

In total, 44 actions and 200 road Safety Measures are foreseen. These actions and measures are distributed in the five Road Safety Pillars according to Table 1 below. Specifically, the Road Safety Management pillar includes actions for the formation of the required institutional and financial environment of road safety. The Road User Behaviour pillar concerns actions related to the safety of road users. Road Infrastructure and Traffic pillar targets actions to improve road safety infrastructure and traffic and the Vehicle pillar, actions to improve vehicle safety. Post-Crash treatment concerns actions related to the provision of immediate post-crash assistance to the victims and their medical care.

Pillar	Actions	Measures
	M1. Integrated Road Safety Management Structure	M1.1 Governmental Committee
		M1.2 National Road Safety Body
		M1.3 Organization of Road Safety Units
		M1.4 National Road Safety Council
		M1.5 ISO 39001 Certification
	M2. Road Safety Law	M2.1 Institutionalization of responsibilities
	·	M2.2 Institutionalization of accountability
	M3. Road Safety Fund	M3.1 Function of Fund Management Authority
		M3.2 Road Safety Fund Revenue System
		M3.3 Budget Allocation and Execution
	M4. Road Safety Observatory	M4.1 Collection of Crash data
		M4.2 Collection of Traffic data
		M4.3 Collection of Performance Indicators data
		M4.4 Collection of Perception data
		M4.5 Technical Analyses
Ŧ		M4.6 Monitoring the progress of actions
t (]		M4.7 Publication of Statistics and Results
Road Safety Management (M)		M4.8 International Rankings
gen	M5. Road Traffic Code	M5.1 Comprehensive penalty policy
nag		M5.2 Settings for vulnerable road users
Mai		M5.3 Codification of Legislation
[A]	M6. Infringement System Management	M6.1 Change of Legal Framework
afe		M6.2 Digital recording of traffic infringements
ŝ		M6.3 Organization of a Traffic Infringement Management Center
oac		M6.4 Driver Behavior Control System Automation
R		M6.5 System for informing road users on violations
	M7. National Road Safety Communication Policy	M7.1 Central ten-year road safety campaign
		M7.2 Annual thematic road safety campaigns
		M7.3 Special Communication Actions
		M7.4 Information campaigns in touristic areas
		M7.5 Collaboration with Mass Media
	M8. Road Safety Action Plans	M8.1 Road Safety Action Plans in Municipalities
		M8.2 Road Safety Action Plans in Regions
		M8.3 National Road Safety Action Plan for Motorcycles
		M8.4 National Speed Management Action Plan
		M8.5 Road Safety Action Plan in Touristic Areas
		M8.6 Action Plan for the Adaptation to Automated Traffic
	M9. Road Safety Research	M9.1 Interdisciplinary Road Safety Research
		M9.2 Research on automated traffic
		M9.3 Highlighting road safety research results
	B1. Enforcement	B1.1 Systematic and targeted enforcement for road safety
'n	D1. Emorcement	B1.1 Systematic and targeted enforcement for road safety B1.2 Monitoring and publication of monitoring results
vio		B1.2 Monitoring and publication of monitoring results B1.3 New Patrol Vehicles
sha		B1.5 New Fattor veneres B1.4 Surveillance cameras
™ ≘		B1.5 Equipment for alcohol and substances tests
ser (I		B1.5 Equipment for alcohol and substances tests B1.6 Violation and crash recording equipment
U I		B1.0 Violation and clash recording equipment B1.7 Cross-border enforcement of sanctions
Road User Behaviour (B)	B2 Driving Licenses	B2.1 Upgrading of driver training and examination system
R	B2. Driving Licenses	B2.2 Training and examination in hazard perception
		b2.2 framing and examination in nazaru perception

Table 1. Actions and Measures per Road Safety Pillar.

B3. Driver Education/Training	 B2.3 Accompanied driving B2.4 Continuous training of professional drivers B3.1 Continuing driver training programs B3.2 Training in new driver support systems B3.3 Training and performance assessment of professional drivers B3.4 Diagnostic (traffic-psychological) evaluation of offenders B3.5 Re-education of recidivist offenders
B4. School Education	 B3.6 Training through simulation B4.1 Education programs for children (<12 years old) B4.2 Education programs - adolescent education B4.3 Train the trainer programs B4.4 Education programs for parents B4.5 Introduction of Traffic Education in Pedagogical Schools B4.6 Traffic Education Parks
B5. Information Campaigns	 B4.7 Modernization of e-drive academy operation B5.1 Coordination of information campaigns of Public and Private Bodies B5.2 Systematic information campaigns B5.3 Public-Private Partnerships
B6. Priorities for Driver Behaviour Improvement	 B5.4 Coordinated campaigns with enforcement and infrastructure actions B6.1 Speed management B6.2 Driver distraction B6.3 Driving under the influence of alcohol
B7. Protective Equipment Use	 B6.4 Driving under fatigue B6.5 Violation of priority B7.1 Helmet B7.2 Safety belt B7.3 Child restraint systems
B8. Telematics	B7.4 Safety equipment for bicyclistsB8.1 Promoting driver behavior monitoring using telematicsB8.2 Compulsory insurance with telematics for specific categories of drivers
11. Integrated Management of Mobility	 B8.3 Telematics in fleet safety management I1.1 Metropolitan Agency for Mobility in Athens I1.2 Integration of Road Safety in Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) I1.3 Upgrade and staff public transport
I2. Speed limits revision	 I1.4 Ensuring priority in public transport I2.1 Speed limit suitability check I2.2 30 km/h zones in urban centers I2.3 Reduction of speed limit to 80km/h in the rural network
I3. Speed management	I2.4 Introduction of variable speed limits on motorwaysI3.1 Infrastructure adaptationI3.2 Section control
I4. Road Safety Audit	 I3.3 Dynamic speed signs I4.1 Digital Road Register I4.2 Road network safety assessment I4.2 Road Sofety Audit on the Existing Purel Network
I5. Improvements in High Risk Sites on the Rural Road Network	 I4.3 Road Safety Audit on the Existing Rural Network I4.4 Road Safety Audit on the Existing Urban Network I4.5 Road Safety Audit on New Road Works I5.1 Marking I5.2 Safety barriers I5.3 Improvement of electric lighting I5.4 Roadside treatment I5.5 Assessment and improvement of visibility I5.6 Road pavement maintenance I5.7 Upgrading of signage, safety barriers, electric lighting, vegetation
I6. Interventions on the Rural Road Network	 15.7 Operating of signage, safety barriers, electric righting, vegetation 15.8 Interventions at level train crossings 16.1 Road redesign 16.2 Modification of road cross-section 16.3 Redesign of intersections 16.4 Roundabouts
I7. Large Scale Infrastructure Projects	 I6.5 Leveling of intersections I7.1 Upgrading roads to motorways I7.2 Creation of bypass roads of settlements I7.3 Preparation and implementation of tunnel safety plans
I8. Interventions in the Urban Road Network	I7.5 Treparation and implementation of tunner safety plansI7.4 Undergrounding of railway lines in citiesI8.1 Redesign of intersectionsI8.2 Roundabouts

	I8.3 Widening of sidewalks I8.4 Road pavement maintenance
	I8.5 Upgrading of signage, safety bariers, electric lighting, vegetation
I9. Traffic Calming Measures	I9.1 Traffic Calming Measures
1). Hume Cuming foldsures	I9.2 20 km/h limit outside schools
	I9.3 Upgrading of pedestrian crossings
	I9.4 Creation of pedestrian roads
I10. Pedestrian, Bicycle and e-Scooter Traffic	I10.1 Creating infrastructure for bicycle traffic
·	I10.2 Configuration of intersections
	I10.3 Special pedestrian crossing signage
	I10.4 Update bicycle traffic rules
I11. Road Safety Traffic Regulations	I11.1 Improvement of signaling
	II1.2 One-way roads
	I11.3 Parking management
	I11.4 Access control on highways I11.5 Heavy vehicle traffic restrictions
	I11.6 Creating overtaking lanes
	I11.7 Management of adverse weather conditions
112. Road Works Management	I12.1 Application of appropriate marking and signage
112. Roud Works Manugomont	I12.2 Reduction of road works duration
	I12.3 Proper restoration of road pavement
	I12.4 Proper restoration of horizontal and vertical markings
	I12.5 Driver information campaigns
I13. Regulations	I13.1 Updating and supplementing instructions and regulations
	I13.2 Land use management
	I13.3 Updating and supplementing urban planning regulations
V1. Vehicle Fleet Renewal	V1.1 Incentives for car fleet renewal
	V1.2 Incentives for commercial fleet renewal
	V1.3 Privileges for safe vehicles V1.4 Systematic updating of EuroNCAP results
V2 Vahiala Digital Identity	V2.1 Vehicle Technical Inspection Centers (KTEO) interconnection system
V2. Vehicle Digital Identity	V2.2 Integrated vehicle information system
	V2.3 Driver information system
V3. Vehicle Technical Inspection	V3.1 Systematic vehicle inspections
vo. venere reennear inspection	V3.2 Special technical inspection of vehicles for tourism
	V3.3 Reliability check of vehicle technical inspection
V4. New active safety systems	V4.1 Driver warning systems
	V4.2 Driver support systems
	V4.3 Electronic Tachograph
	V4.4 Alcohol detector-key system
	V4.5 Installation of black box in all vehicles
	V4.6 Blind spot mirrors on trucks
N5 Normanian active and the	V4.7 Pedestrian / bicyclist detection sensors in trucks V5.1 New child restraint systems
V5. New passive safety systems	V5.2 Pedestrian protection systems
	V5.3 Motorcycle protection systems
V6. Regulations	V6.1 Implementation of European Directives and Regulations
vo. Regulations	V6.2 Vehicle communication with other vehicles, infrastructure
	and users (V2X)
	V6.3 Implementation of Regulation for Transport of Dangerous
	Goods
	V6.4 Vehicle insurance check
V7. Fleet safety management	V7.1 Establishment of a vehicle fleet safety certification body
	V7.2 Promoting fleet safety systems in companies
	V7.3 Public Procurement only with certified companies
V8. Connected & Automated Vehicles	V8.1 Legislative adjustments for automated vehicles
	V8.2 Development of technological infrastructure for automated
	vehicles V8.3 Vehicle - Road Infrastructure (V2I) Communication
	V8.4 Automated Traffic Organization
P1. Intervention Time Reduction	P1.1 Promotion of the eCall system
1.1. mervention 1 me reduction	P1.2 Promotion of the 112 call
	P1.3 Response time performance indicators
	P1.4 Emergency Lane assurance
	P1.5 Organization of emergency vehicles in Motor Service Stations
	P1.6 Plans for the location of emergency intervention units

		P1.7 Development of a network of special rescue means
		P1.8 Air transport system organization
	P2. Enhancing Emergency Response Units	P2.1 Adequate staffing of units with rescuers
		P2.2 Training of emergency response executives
		P2.3 New Fire Brigade Vehicles
		P2.4 New Fire Brigade Equipment
		P2.5 New Ambulances
<u> </u>		P2.6 New Ambulance Equipment
Ē		P2.7 Creation of Mobile Medical Units
Post-Crash Treatment (P)	P3. First aid driver training	P3.1 Training of candidate drivers in first aid
		P3.2 Lifelong education of all citizens in first aid
		P3.3 Driver training in crash management
	P4. Hospital Care Improvement	P4.1 Organization of emergency care units
		P4.2 Creation of Trauma Centers
		P4.3 Organization of a network of care centers
		P4.4 Multi-Injury Care Protocols (triage)
		P4.5 Blood Bank for the injured in road crashes
	P5. Establishment of Trauma Registry	P5.1 Development of an Electronic Trauma Register
		P5.2 Application of MAIS3+ protocol
	P6. Support of Road Crash Victims	P6.1 Establishment of rehabilitation centers for the injured
		P6.2 Psychological support for road crash victims
		P6.3 Training of judicial officers

All measures are analytically described in the final report of the National Road Safety Strategic Plan. In addition, for each measure the implementing Authorities have been identified (more than one Implementing Authority can participate in each Action) as well as the priority of implementation and whether or not a legislative regulation is needed for its implementation.

4. Prioritization of measures

Prioritization of measures was carried out taking into account the main causes of serious crashes and the institutional problems that exist in Greece as well as the estimated degree of influence in dealing with the main causes of crashes in Greece. A Delphi survey among road safety experts in Greece was also conducted. Specifically, the 200 road safety measures are distributed in high priority measures (81), medium priority measures (61) and low priority measures (58) as shown in Table 2 (using codes from Table 1).

Road Safety Pillar	High priority measures	Medium priority measures	Low priority measures
Road Safety Management	M1.1, M1.2, M1.3, M2.1, M2.2, M3.1, M3.2, M3.3, M4.2, M4.3, M4.5, M4.6, M5.1, M5.2, M6.1, M6.2, M6.3, M6.4, M6.5, M7.1, M7.2, M8.1, M8.2, M8.3, M8.4	M4.1, M4.7, M5.3, M7.3, M7.4, M7.5, M8.5, M8.6,	M1.4, M1.5, M4.4, M4.8, M9.1, M9.2, M9.3
Road User Behavior	B1.1, B1.2, B4.1, B4.2, B6.1, B6.2, B6.3, B6.4, B6.5, B7.1, B7.2, B7.3	B1.4, B1.5, B1.6, B2.1, B2.3, B2.4, B3.1, B3.2, B3.3, B3.4, B3.5, B4.3, B5.2, B5.4, B7.4, B8.1, B8.2, B8.3	B1.3, B1.7, B2.2, B3.6, B4.4, B4.5, B4.6, B4.7, B5.1, B5.3
Road Infrastructure and Traffic	I1.1, I1.2, I1.3, I1.4, I2.2, I3.1, I4.5, I5.1, I5.2, I5.3, I5.4, I5.5, I5.6, I5.7, I6.3, I6.4, I8.1, I8.2, I8.3, I8.4, I8.5, I9.1, I9.2, I9.3, I11.1, I12.1, I12.2, I12.3, I12.4	I2.1, I2.3, I4.1, I4.2, I4.3, I4.5, I5.8, I6.1, I6.2, I6.5, I9.4, I10.1, I10.2, I10.4, I13.1, I13.2, I13.3	I2.4, I3.2, I3.3, I4.4, I7.1, I7.2, I7.3, I7.4, I10.3, I11.2, I11.3, I11.4, I11.5, I11.6, I11.7, I12.5
Vehicle	V2.1, V2.2, V2.3, V3.1, V4.4, V4.6, V4.7, V6.1	V1.1, V3.2, V3.3, V4.1, V4.2, V4.3, V5.1, V5.2, V5.3, V6.4, V7.2, V8.1, V8.3	V1.2, V1.3, VI.4, V4.5, V6.2, V6.3, V7.1, V7.3, V8.2, V8.4
Post-Crash Treatment	P1.1, P1.2, P1.3, P1.4, P1.5, P2.1, P2.6, P4.4	P1.6, P2.5, P2.7, P3.1, P4.5	P1.7, P1.8, P2.2, P2.3, P2.4, P2.7, P3.2, P3.3, P4.1, P4.2, P4.3, P5.1, P5.2, P6.1, P6.2, P6.3

Table 2. Road Safety Measures per Pillar and priority level.

5. Methodology for monitoring the implementation of actions and performance

Monitoring road safety through the systematic and continuous recording and analysis of intermediate and final results as well as evaluating implemented interventions are essential steps for the effective management of road safety both nationally and locally. The methodological framework suggested in the Strategic Plan for monitoring the implementation of road safety actions and measures takes into account the elements of the Safe System Approach.

Therefore, a monitoring framework is proposed, which can be captured with a two-dimensional table. One dimension consists of the basic elements of the Safety System: a) Strong institutional framework, b) Shared Responsibility, c) Strengthening all parts of the system, d) Mitigation of the severity of crashes, e) Support safe behavior of road users. The second dimension comprise the five road safety pillars taken into account in this Strategic Plan: a) Road Safety Management, b) Road User Behavior c) Road Infrastructure and Traffic, d) Vehicle, e) Post-crash treatment. Each intersection cell of these two dimensions corresponds to the actions for the implementation of the Safe System.

The monitoring of the implementation of the actions and the Safe System can therefore be carried out per key element, pillar, individual cell, but also as a whole, since all these different elements are considered interconnected parts of an entire system. The degree of implementation of the safe system can be characterized depending on the type and the systematic or non-systematic implementation of the proposed interventions.

The Safe System Approach is also based on providing the clearest possible picture of the various issues affecting overall safety performance and taking timely action to reduce road crashes and injuries. In this context, it is proposed to use a set of key performance indicators for road safety, which are causally related to road crashes, fatal or serious injuries as well as to a number of important issues in the field of road safety:

1) Speed

- 2) Use of seat belts and child restraint systems
- 3) Use of protective equipment (helmet)
- 4) Driving under the influence of alcohol
- 5) Driver distraction
- 6) Vehicle safety
- 7) Infrastructure
- 8) Provision of post-crash medical care

The methodological framework for the collection of the necessary data and the calculation of road safety performance indicators is provided in the Strategic Plan. For the first five indicators, field surveys (measurements or observations along the road) are necessary for the collection of the required data. For the indicators of vehicle safety and post-crash medical care data are required from respective national databases. Concerning the infrastructure indicators, the development of an appropriate methodology by the European Commission is ongoing. Definitions of the indicators, the methodological framework for data collection and processing and the necessary minimum analysis requirements (by road type, time period, vehicle type, road user, etc.) are based on work already done by the European Commission, so that road safety performance indicators of Greece are harmonized with those of the other Member States.

6. Discussion

The National Road Safety Strategic Plan for the period 2021-2030 concerns the definition, implementation and monitoring of the necessary actions to drastically reduce the number of fatalities and injuries in road crashes in Greece. The development of the new National Strategic Road Safety Plan was based on all the new international trends, the detailed analysis of the possibilities of the Greek reality as well as the systematic broad consultation.

Initially the five road safety pillars of the National Strategic Road Safety Plan for the decade 2021-2030 that concern all factors of road crashes are presented. For each of the pillars, actions and individual road safety measures are defined, based on the principles of Vision Zero and the Safe System Approach and taking into account experience from other countries and directions of the European Union, specific road safety problems in Greece (motorcycles, speed, urban areas, etc.) and the expected influence on the achievement of the objectives set. Following, a description

of the measures and implementation priority are provided. In total, 44 actions and 200 road safety measures are foreseen, grouped per road safety pillar.

Next, the framework for monitoring the implementation of actions is presented, taking into account the elements of the Safe System Approach which are reflected in both the basic principles of the Strategic Plan and the actions and measures designed to improve road safety.

The Safe System Approach is also based on providing the clearest possible picture of the various issues affecting overall safety performance and taking timely action to reduce road crashes and injuries. In this context, the use of a set of key performance indicators for road safety is proposed and the methodological framework for the collection of the necessary data and the calculation of road safety performance indicators is provided.

Specifically, steps required to enable the monitoring of the implementation of road safety actions, through the National Road Safety Observatory include:

- Systematic collection of information for the implementation and implementation of the actions foreseen
- Reporting on the progress of the work of the competent implementing authorities to the head road safety authority (Road Safety Governmental Committee) every 6 months, through reports with detailed information on the technical and financial subject of all actions and measures
- Use of monitoring indicators, through which the percentage of implementation of the actions will be recorded, but also the effectiveness of the Implementation Principles in the redistribution of budgets will be evaluated in the next step.

Road safety performance should be monitored at national, regional and local level. In order to effectively monitor the performance of road safety, a series of quantitative indicators have been defined, which relate to:

- final results of road safety (crashes and victims)
- intermediate effects, related to the behavior of road users (speed, driving under the influence of alcohol, distraction, use of protective equipment), safety of infrastructure, vehicles and timely provision of post-crash care

The assessment of the effectiveness of road safety actions and measures, provides the necessary justification for each action and measure in terms of effectiveness and appropriateness and in relation to the respective general and specific quantitative targets that have been set. This assessment process includes four stages that concern:

- the collection of necessary data,
- the selection and implementation of appropriate methods and evaluation indicators for each category of actions and measures,
- the reliable application of assessment methods for specific areas and time periods,
- the publication and display of evaluation results.

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